

Message Text

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TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 293838 TOSEC 310424

NODIS
FOR THE SECRETARY FROM ROBINSON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, RH

SUBJECT: ACTION MEMORANDUM: RHODESIAN CONFERENCE: OUR
NEXT STEPS (S/S 7624784)

1. PROBLEM

IVOR RICHARD'S DISCUSSIONS WITH BLACK NATIONALIST LEADERS CONCERNING THE STRUCTURE OF AN INTERIM GOVERNMENT SEEM TO BE REACHING AN IMPASSE. NKOMO AND MUGABE, TOGETHER WITH THE FRONT-LINE LEADERS, OBVIOUSLY REJECT THE CONCEPT OF AN INTERIM GOVERNMENT IN WHICH BOTH SIDES SHARE POWER. INSTEAD, THEY INSIST ON AN IMMEDIATE TRANSFER OF POWER BY THE RHODESIAN GOVERNMENT TO THE BRITISH, WITH THE BRITISH SERVING AS THE TRANSITIONAL AUTHORITY LEADING TO EVENTUAL INDEPENDENCE UNDER MAJORITY RULE. THE QUESTION IS: DOES THIS UNREALISTIC POSITION OF THE 3LACK LEADERS CALL FOR A MORE ACTIVE USG ROLE AT THIS JUNCTURE?

2. DISCUSSION

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WE BELIEVE THAT, AFTER CONSULTATIONS WITH THE BRITISH, WE SHOULD WEIGH IN WITH CHONA (WHO IS IN GENEVA), KAUNDA AND NYERERE, MAKING CLEAR THAT THE PATRIOTIC FRONT AND THE

FRONT-LINE STATES ARE BEING TOTALLY UNREASONABLE AND THAT THEY MUST MODIFY THEIR POSITIONS AND RETURN TO THE CONCEPTS YOU DISCUSSED WITH THEM ORIGINALLY IF THEY WANT TO ATTAIN THE OBJECTIVE OF MAJORITY RULE AND INDEPENDENCE FOR RHODESIA THROUGH PEACEFUL MEANS.

OUR AIM WOULD BE TO ATTEMPT TO BRING THE MODERATE BLACK LEADERS TO THEIR SENSES, RATHER THAN PLAYING AN ADVOCACY ROLE. WE CONSIDER IT IMPORTANT TO MOVE PROMPTLY BEFORE AN IMPASSE ACTUALLY OCCURS. THE TALKING POINTS WHICH REINHARDT AND WISNER HAVE PREPARED IN TOSEC 378 , WITH MINOR MODIFICATIONS (BEING PROPOSED TO YOU IN SEPARATE MESSAG", WOULD SERVE AS A BASIS FOR OUR DEMARCHES.

THE SCENARIO WE PROPOSE IS AS FOLLOWS:

(1) HAVE REINHARDT CLEAR OUR TALKING POINTS WITH THE BRITISH AND OBTAIN THEIR ENDORSEMENT OF OUR INITIATIVE.

(2) MAKE DEMARCHES TO CHONA, KAUNDA AND NYERERE, AS FOLLOWS:

(A) REINHARDT WOULD TALK TO CHONA IN GENEVA.

(B) SCHAUFLE, WHO IS CURRENTLY ATTENDING THE AAI CONFERENCE IN LESOTHO, WOULD PROCEED DIRECTLY TO LUSAKA AND TO DAR ES SALAAM TO MAKE A SIMILAR PITCH.

IN THE CASE OF KAUNDA, IN ADDITION TO USING THE TALKING POINTS PREPARED IN GENEVA, WE WOULD--PURSUANT TO YOUR DESIRES (SECTO 31037)--ASK SCHAUFLE TO CLARIFY THE SEPTEMBER RECORD OF YOUR MEETINGS WITH KAUNDA AS A FOLLOW-UP TO REINHARDT'S MEETING WITH KAUNDA ON NOVEMBER 27. WE WOULD EXPECT TO BE ABLE TO UNDERTAKE THE FOREGOING STEPS IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS.

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3. RECOMMENDATION:

THAT ONCE YOU HAVE APPROVED THE TALKING POINTS AS MODIFIED, THAT YOU DIRECT REINHARDT AND SCHAUFLE TO CONVEY THEM IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SCENARIO INDICATED, WITH SCHAUFLE ALSO REVIEWING WITH KAUNDA WHAT YOU HAD DISCUSSED WITH HIM IN SEPTEMBER.

APPROVE:

APPROVE:

DISAPPROVE:

4.CLEAREDBY: S: HCOLLUMS

DRAFTEDBY:AF:SEELYE,ACTNG. APPROVED: CWROBINSON ROBINSON

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